

REBECCA COHN eNEWSLETTER

for the twenty-fourth Assembly District

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Cohn's Comment



The governor came out with his annual May revision of the budget last month. It contained a number of laudable elements such as increases of the General Fund Reserve, reducing the on-going structural deficit and repaying General Fund debt.

In addition, it provides full funding for Proposition 98 in accordance with the suspension agreement of 2004-05 and establishes a prudent repayment schedule of approximately \$3 billion that the Governor did not provide in accordance with the agreement in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

However, the Governor's May Revision also remains in conflict with many Californians' budget priorities in several key ways. Specifically, the May Revision:

- Inappropriately diverts a total of \$4.1 billion from public transportation over a 10 year period by shifting taxes paid at the pump to payments on General Obligation debt. Put another way, it uses tax money from Proposition 42 that is supposed to be used to increase buses, rail and other public transportation needs and uses it to help pay for bonds sold for construction of highways.
- Proposes numerous new "boutique"

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Cohn helps kick off Affordable Housing Week

SAN JOSE - During Mother's Day weekend in celebration of Affordable Housing Week, Assembly Member Rebecca Cohn

participated in the Silicon Valley Habitat for Humanity Woman Build in Willow Glen. Cohn teamed up with over twenty woman volunteers to create three ceremonial

walls that will be placed inside the newest Habitat for Humanity home.

Habitat for Humanity provides homes for those living in substandard housing. The Woman Build project is a female-run venture that urges women to volunteer in a setting that is stereotypically male oriented. The program does not exclude men and welcomes any volunteer participation.

Over two dozen two by four beams were signed and donated including beams from Cohn's Office along with the Stone Church of Willow Glen, the Willow Glen United Methodist Church, and

others. Lowe's Hardware store, the national partner of Habitat for Humanity, donated tools, materials, and a check for \$50,000.



Cohn raises a wall with Woman Build group

The newest Habitat home will go to Judah and Davina Larmier whose 13-year-old son, Joshua, has cerebral palsy. Their two bedroom apartment provided insufficient space

for their growing family and special needs. Even with the expensive housing market they were reluctant to leave the place where they had called home their entire lives. Thankfully, Habitat for Humanity was able to find them an affordable solution.

Major construction begins in June and should be completed within eight months. Volunteers are encouraged to participate. For more information on Silicon Valley Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program and how you can participate in the completion of this home, visit habitatsanjose.org/womensbuild or call (408) 942-6444. ♦

Stranger Danger Camp Comes to Willow Glen

Saturday, June 24, 2006 from 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM

"Stranger Danger" Camp and Children's Safety Resource Fair

Willows Senior Center, 1275 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose

Contact Julie Lind at (408) 282-8920 or Julie.Lind@asm.ca.gov for more information. ♦

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educational programs that tie the hands of local school districts rather than providing more local control for districts to meet the needs of their students.

- Continues to limit access to higher education by not providing adequate funding for Academic Preparation programs for the UC and the CSU and by not reducing community college fees.
- Fails to make prudent investments for necessary foster care improvements or to maintain access to childcare programs at 1999 levels so that working parents can keep their jobs rather than having to return to the welfare rolls in order to receive childcare services.

Although the governor also rescinded his mean spirited January budget proposal to cut the Federal SSI COLA for the aged, blind, and disabled, both houses of the legislature had already removed it from their budget bills. Clearly, the legislature sent a strong message to the governor that balancing the budget by cutting services to blind, aged and disabled Californians during an economic boom would not be tolerated.

The governor's proposed investment in providing health care to our state's uninsured children falls well short of the Californians' support for taking care of these needs.

Compared to previous years, the legislature's differences with the governor are minor. There is little reason to believe we cannot meet the constitutional deadlines for approving the budget. ♦

— Rebecca Cohn

Assemblymember.Cohn@assembly.ca.gov

Protect Yourself from the Sun this Summer

SAN JOSE – As the weather changes from spring into summer, it is crucial to arm yourself against the harmful rays of the sun.

Important facts most individuals don't know regarding protection from the sun:

1. Sunscreen needs to be applied one half hour before exposure for full skin absorption.
2. Waterproof type sunscreen should be applied at least an hour before going out into the sun.
3. Sweating, swimming, and exposure to rain decrease the effect of SPF.
4. The FDA recommends reapplying sunscreen every 40-80 minutes.
5. Insect repellents containing DET will decrease a product's SPF by anywhere from 15-30%.
6. Always protect your eyes with good quality sunglasses. The risk of cataracts needs to be underscored.
7. Certain medications increase one's risk of sunburn by increasing the photosensitivity of the skin. Caution should be exercised if taking the following medications, although the list is not complete:

- Antihistamines
- Oral contraceptives
- Estrogen

- Anti-inflammatories
- Ibuprofen
- Diabetes medication
- Some tricyclic antidepressants
- Some deodorants and soaps
- Some herbal medication such as St. John's Wort can increase the risk of sunburn

Tanning Salons

The vast majority of research shows that tanning beds and tanning salons are dangerous. On average, tanning beds are contaminated with approximated 2-10% of UV-B, more than the average UV-B content in natural sunlight. In a Swedish study of 400 patients, people who use sun beds, sunlamps, and tanning booths before the age of 30 had a 7-8% increased risk of melanoma.

Sunburn Treatment

After sunburn has resulted, there is not much that can be done except make the patient more comfortable. Analgesics such as aspirin and Ibuprofen may help the inflammation. Aloe gels can be helpful in relieving pain. Applying cool water is also very effective.

Remember, protect yourself in the future! Wear the proper SPF sunscreen, put on a hat and sunglasses, and save yourself the pain. ♦

Setting Guidelines and Monitoring Can Help Keep Your Children Safe Online

SAN JOSE — The internet can be a great homework and socializing tool for teens and school-aged children. With the advent of instant messaging technologies and social networking sites such as Myspace and Friendster, the chances that your child could meet unsavory characters online has increased. According to the Department of Justice, almost 20% of young internet users surveyed said they had received some sort of unwanted sexual solicitation. In the spirit of June being National Internet

Safety Month, here are some tips to keep the youngsters you love safe when they are on the World Wide Web:

- Do not keep any internet-capable computers in your child's bedroom where you cannot keep an eye on what they are doing
- Set ground rules with your child about what is and is not acceptable when they are online, including what specific websites they are allowed to visit
- Know what they do when they are

online by occasionally checking the "history" in their internet browser

- Visit their social networking profiles and instant messaging buddy lists, and ask whether they know each and every person they have allowed to be their "friend"
- You cannot watch your child each and every moment they are online. Make it clear that your child can talk to an adult about issues that concerns them about their time on the net. ♦

Cohn's Public Safety and Health Bills Progress to Senate

SACRAMENTO – A key bill in Assembly Member Cohn's legislative package passed the Assembly in May. Four other bills cleared the Assembly Floor as well with three passing unanimously.

Cohn's proposal to integrate public safety communications systems, AB 2116, seeks to aid first responders in emergency situations. AB 2116 will be heard by the Senate Committee on Government Organization on June 13.

AB 2116 Interoperability: Creates guidelines and directs funding for communication equipment to be interoperable or to be able to work with different parts of the communications system. This would allow first responders to directly communicate with different agencies and jurisdictions. Passed the Assembly 70-5.

AB 1872 Felony Assault on a Pregnant Woman: Creates a sentence enhancement of five additional years on felony assault committed against a pregnant woman. Passed the Assembly 80-0.

AB 2031 Foster Care: Requires social workers to ask foster youth about adult relationships that are important to them and to take action to unite them safely with willing

extended family members. This bill establishes guidelines in using technology to locate relative and non-relative extended family members for placement of foster children. Passed the Assembly 80-0.

AB 2051 LGBT Domestic Violence: Under existing law, persons applying for marriage licenses are required to pay



Cohn addresses her colleagues on the Assembly Floor.

a \$23 fee to fund various programs designed to prevent and mitigate acts of domestic violence. AB 2051 would levy a similar fee on individuals registering as domestic partners. The funds generated would support many initiatives, including grants to shelters serving victims of LGBT domestic violence and LGBT issue sensitivity training for law enforcement and domestic violence service providers. Passed the Assembly 49-29.

AB 2058 Sex with Juveniles: Increases the penalty for school employees (teachers, coaches, counselors, etc.) engaging in intercourse with a student between the ages of 14-17 to a wobbler (can be either misdemeanor or felony). Passed the Assembly 79-0.

For information on these or any other of Assembly Member Cohn's bills, contact Richard Woonacott at (916) 319-2024 or Richard.Woonacott@asm.ca.gov. ♦

Free Screening Mammograms and Clinical Breast Exams at Neighborhood Clinics

SAN JOSE – The Women's Health Partnership is bringing Neighborhood Mammography Days to Santa Clara County.

For three days in June, if you are between the ages of 40-64, underinsured or uninsured they can help you obtain a free clinical breast exam and mammogram!

For more information call the clinic

closest to you:

Planned Parenthood

1691 The Alameda
San Jose, CA 95126
June 7 (9AM – 3 PM)

For appt: (408) 287-7526

Gardner Family Health Center

195 E. Virginia St.
San Jose, CA 95112
June 8 (9AM – 3 PM)

For appt: (408) 918-5502

Indian Health Center

1333 Meridian Ave
San Jose, CA 95125
June 9 (9AM – 3PM)

For appt: (408) 445-3400

Contact Shermineh Jafariieh if you have any questions or need further assistance at (408) 289-9260 extension 215. ♦